

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated antibody which specifically binds purified early conception factor.
2. An isolated antibody which specifically binds purified early conception factor which has a molecular weight of approximately 200,000.
3. An isolated antibody of claim 2 wherein the early conception factor is from a species selected from the group consisting of cow, cat, dog, horse, human, sheep, and pig.
4. An antibody according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of polyclonal, monoclonal, humanized, fully human, or chimeric antibodies.
5. A method for detecting conception in an animal comprising detecting the presence of early conception factor in a body fluid of the animal.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the body fluid is serum.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the body fluid is urine.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the body fluid is milk.
9. A method for determining the absence of conception in a cow within the first twelve hours of gestation comprising determining the presence or absence of early conception factor, the absence of early conception factor indicating the absence of conception.
10. A method for determining the absence of conception in a cow within the first twenty-four hours of gestation comprising determining the presence or absence of early

conception factor, the absence of early conception factor indicating the absence of conception.

11. A method for detecting early conception factor in an animal comprising the steps of:

- a. collecting a sample from the animal;
- b. contacting the sample with anti-(early conception factor) antibodies under conditions whereby the antibodies can bind early conception factor protein present in the sample; and
- c. detecting the antibody-early conception factor complexes.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of serum, urine and milk.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the anti-early conception factor antibody is conjugated to a detectable moiety, and the antibody-early conception factor complex is detected by adding a substrate or inducer, and monitoring detectable changes in the receptacle.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the anti-(early conception factor) antibodies are conjugated to a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphatase, horseradish peroxidase, colloidal gold, and urease.

15. An apparatus for detecting early conception factor in a fluid containing a sample from a subject, comprising:
- a. a body portion; and
  - b. a support, having thereon an antibody to early conception factor, in contact with the body portion.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the support comprises a material that wicks a fluid.
17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the antibody is conjugated to a detectable moiety.
18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the substrate has both a monoclonal and a polyclonal anti-(early conception factor) antibody thereon.
19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the monoclonal and polyclonal anti-(early conception factor) antibodies are spatially separated on the support.
20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the polyclonal antibody is localized in a band, wherein the band is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the support.
21. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means on the body portion for directing a fluid to the support.
22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means on the body portion for directing a fluid to the support, directs the fluid to a location on the support whereon the monoclonal antibody is located, whereby the sample contacts the monoclonal antibody and the support wicks the monoclonal antibody and the fluid into contact with the band containing the polyclonal antibody.